REMARKS

Claims 1-26 are all the claims pending in the application. Claim 1 is the only

independent claim.

Claims 1-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over newly cited

Klemen et al. (US 6,527,659) in view of Morisawa et al. (US 5,904,631).

Applicant respectfully requests traverses the rejection of claim 1 at least because there is

no reasonable combination of Klemen and Morisawa that would meet all of the claim's

recitations. For example, there is no reasonable combination of Klemen and Morisawa that

would meet the claimed driving unit, in which said first electric motor, said power splitting

planetary gear, said second electric motor and said transmission are stored in a casing member

while being disposed in line on the axis; and said first electric motor, said power splitting

planetary gear, said second electric motor and said transmission are disposed on the axis so that

said first electric motor and said second electric motor adjoin each other on the axis.

Klemen discloses a hybrid driving unit 10 with a first machine 26 (i.e., first electric

motor), a gearing arrangement 24 including three coupled planetary gearsets 40, 42, 44, and a

second machine 28 (i.e., second electric motor) disposed in line on an axis. However, the first

electric motor 26 and the second electric motor 28 are disposed *at opposite axial ends* of the

gearing arrangement 24.[1] Thus, Klemen does not disclose that a power splitting planetary gear,

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[1] *See* Klemen at 2:22-25 & FIG. 1.

2

a second electric motor and said transmission are disposed on the axis so first electric motor and

the second electric motor *adjoin each other* on the axis.[2]

In addition, as shown in FIG. 1 of Klemen, the output shaft 18 of Klemen's hybrid drive

unit 10 is disposed on the different axis with respect to the input shaft 12. Thus, Klemen also

does not disclose disposing an input shaft and an output shaft, which is interlocked with driving

wheels, in line on an axis.

Moreover, Morisawa does not make up for the deficiencies in Klemen. For example, as

shown in FIG. 9 of Morisawa, Morisawa's reduction gear 310 and double-pinion planetary gear

110 are provided *between* the motors MG1 and MG5. Thus, Morisawa does not disclose that the

first electric motor and the second electric motor *adjoin each other* on the axis.

Finally, there is simply no reason to combine Morisawa and Klemen in the claimed

manner because neither of these references discloses that the first electric motor and the second

electric motor *adjoin each other* on the axis.

Thus, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of

independent claim 1.

In addition, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of

dependent claims 2-20 at least because of their dependency from claim 1.

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[2] As shown in FIG. 2 of the exemplary embodiment, the first and second electric motors 20, 23 adjoin
each other without the power splitting planetary gear 21 or the transmission 22 between said electric
motors.

Conclusion

   In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed

to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is

kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

   The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue

Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any

overpayments to said Deposit Account.

                                          Respectfully submitted,

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